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WIGAN
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR,

FOR THE YEAR

1925.

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STANDISH,

MAY 30th, 1926

To the Chairman and Members of the Wigan Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting for your consideration my Eleventh Annual Report, and in doing so, I beg to thank you for the ready assistance you have always accorded me in all matters relative to the health of the district.

My thanks are also due to your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Paul Fairclough, for his valuable support during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

GEO. H. ORMSBY,

L.M.S.S.A., Lond.

Fellow of the Royal Institute of
Public Health;

Fellow of the Society of Medical
Officers of Health.

Statistical Summary for whole District.

Population—Census 1911	6,327
Population, Census 1921	6,296
Estimated Population, July 1st, 1924	6,354
Estimated Population, July 1st, 1925	6,361
Acreage of District	11,696 acres
Density of Population per acre	0.5
Number of Inhabited Houses (1921)	1,437
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (1921)	1,427
Rateable Value	£75,160 17 6
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£296 18 3

Births—	Males.	Females.	
Legitimate	42	60	105
Illegitimate	0	3	

Deaths—Males	33	
Females	42	
	—	75

Annual Birth-rate	16·5
Annual Death-rate	11·7
Natural Increase of Births over Deaths	30
Deaths from Zymotic Diseases	4
Zymotic Death-rate (excluding Tuberculosis)	0·15
Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	0·47
Deaths in Infants under one year—Legitimate 11, Illegitimate 0	11
Infantile Death-rate per 1,000 Births	104
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	1
,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
,, Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	0

Populations and Acreages in the separate Townships.

	Estimated Total Population, July 1st, 1924.	Estimated Total Population, July 1st, 1925.	Acreage
Wrightington	2016	2019	3915
Shevington	1971	1973	1727
Haigh	963	964	2134
Parbold	736	737	1158
Dalton	433	433	2103
Worthington	235	235	659
	6354	6361	11696

COMPARATIVE TABLES

	Births.	Rates.	Deaths.	Rates.
Wrightington	40	19·81	26	12·87
Shevington	37	18·75	24	12·16
Haigh	8	8·29	7	7·26
Parbold	7	9·49	8	10·85
Dalton	8	18·47	6	13·85
Worthington	5	21·27	4	17·02
	105		75	

ZYMOTIC DISEASES NOTIFIED AND DEATHS
(including Tuberculosis).

	Cases.	Deaths.
Wrightington	15	3
Shevington	29	1
Haigh	5	0
Parbold	5	0
Dalton	0	0
Worthington	2	0
	56	4

INFANTILE DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR.

	1925.	1924.	Rate per 1,000 Births 1925.
Wrightington	2	3	50
Shevington	6	4	162
Haigh	0	0	0
Parbold	0	0	0
Dalton	2	0	250
Worthington	1	0	200
	11	7	

WIGAN RURAL DISTRICT.

On the whole, I think we may safely say that as regards the Public Health of the district, progress has been made during the past five years.

I would like to see a Clinic established by the County Council for infants and children, as has been done by them for Standish during the past year. I recognise the difficulty of this procedure, as the townships forming the Rural District are wide apart, but I feel sure the adoption of a Clinic would lower infantile death-rate.

A District Nursing Association for Parbold and the Appley Bridge portion of Wrightington has been established during the past year, and I have nothing but praise for the work performed by the Nurse. Her services have been very highly appreciated, and I congratulate the Committee for the hard work they must have done in collecting the funds for the upkeep of this most praiseworthy object.

The bracing air of Dalton and the High Moor portion of Wrightington, together with Parbold Hill, is much appreciated, especially at holiday times, by the inhabitants of Wigan and surrounding villages. Haigh, with a part of Wrightington and Dalton, are hilly districts. Parbold, with a portion of Wrightington and Shevington, are situated in the Douglas Valley. The Appley Bridge portion of Wrightington finds employment by a variety of industries for many male and female operatives, as there are Stone Quarries, Concrete, Brick, Glue and Linoleum Works situated here.

I feel sure one would go a long way to find a more prosperous village.

The adult males of Shevington, Mossy Lea, Haigh, and Worthington are chiefly employed in the coal mines. A Branch of the Bradford Dyers' Association gives well paid and regular employment to many of the inhabitants of Haigh of both sexes.

Parbold is mainly residential; the houses adjoining the Common being well built and picturesquely situated.

The whole of the district being mainly a rural one, farming is carried on to a great extent.

There has been less infectious disease during the past five years than formerly. There were only 3 cases of Enteric Fever notified—1922, 1923 and 1925 were quite free from this disease. Scarlet Fever has not been very prevalent—1922 and 1923 with 27 and 17 cases respectively being the worst years. Pneumonia, due to two epidemics of Influenza, was most prevalent in 1924 and 1925, when there were 59 and 41 cases.

Tuberculosis treatment is undertaken by the County Medical Officer, a dispensary for the purpose being situated in Wigan. All suitable cases are removed to the Sanatoria.

Venereal Diseases, which one hardly ever comes across now, is efficiently treated at the Wigan Infirmary Clinic.

Births.—It will be found from the Statistical Summary that 105 births were registered, being the same number as last year, and compared with 1923 gives an increase of 4 over that year. The females gave an increase of 8, while the males were responsible for a decrease of the like number, thus equalling the number for the previous year.

The natural increase of births over deaths is 30, compared with 19 for last year. Three illegitimate births were registered, all females, compared with 2 males and 3 females for 1924. Females show the large increase of 21 over the males, compared with an increase of 5 last year.

Our birth-rate, 16.5, is the same as last year, and is again below that of England and Wales, which is 18.3.

Deaths.—These show a decrease of 11 over the previous year, reducing the rate from 13.5 to 11.7. Parbold was responsible for an increase of 3, Wrightington 2, and Worthington 1. Haigh gave the largest decrease, viz., 11, while last year this township gave an increase of the same number. Shevington shows a decrease of 6, and Dalton gave no change. The death-rate for England and Wales was 12.2, so that we may congratulate ourselves in having the low one of 11.7.

INFANTILE DEATHS.—11 deaths in infants were recorded, being an increase of 4 over the preceding year, causing the rate to rise from 66 to 104 per 1,000 births. Pneumonia was responsible for 4 deaths, Premature Birth 4, Congenital Asthenia, Congenital Disease of the Heart, and Rickets 1 each. Our infantile death-rate compares very badly with that of England and Wales, which is 75. Our infantile death-rate for the past 5 years will be found in my Summary Report.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.—A Nurse appointed by the Lancashire County Council visits expectant mothers periodically, gives advice on general lines on the care and welfare of the infants and children up to five years of age. A District Nurse, who is also a Certified Midwife, was appointed for Parbold and Appley Bridge in 1914 by private subscription, and I am pleased to say her services are still much sought after and thoroughly appreciated.

Eight deaths of residents belonging to the district occurred outside the district, being a decrease of 4, compared with 12 for last year. The institutions in which the deaths took place are as follows :—

Wigan Infirmary	6
Wigan Workhouse Infirmary, Billinge	1
County Mental Hospital, Winwick ...	1
	8

Six deaths of non-residents were registered in the district, being 3 more than last year, and all were transferred to their proper quarter.

The deaths from all causes are as follows:—

Measles	1
Influenza	4
Encephalitis Lethargica	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	3
Cancer, Malignant Disease	6
Rheumatic Fever	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	4
Heart Disease	10
Arterio-Sclerosis	5
Bronchitis	3
Pneumonia (all forms)	13
Appendicitis	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	5
Congenital Debility and Premature Birth	6
Other Deaths from Violence	2
Other Defined Diseases	10
	75

Seven of the deaths were uncertified.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DEATHS.—56 cases were notified under this heading, being a decrease of 18 compared with 74 for last year. This is most gratifying indeed, considering that 1924 gave an increase of 9 over 1923. The cases notified were as follows: Pneumonia 41, Erysipelas 4, Pulmonary Tuberculosis 3, Other Forms of Tuberculosis 4, Scarlet Fever 2, Diphtheria and Encephalitis Lethargica 1 each. Shevington was responsible for 23 cases of Pneumonia, Wrightington 9, Parbold 4, Haigh 3, and Worthington 2; Dalton being the only township free from this disease. No cases of infectious disease were removed to Hospital for treatment.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES AND DEATHS.—Four deaths were recorded, against 6 last year, the causes being Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System 3, and Measles 1.

PULMONARY AND OTHER FORMS OF TUBERCULOSIS.—Under this heading 7 cases were notified, against 4 for last year. Three were Pulmonary and 4 Non-Pulmonary. Three deaths occurred, being 2 less than in the previous year.

The localities in which the cases of infection and deaths took place are as follows:—

	Pulmonary.	Other Forms.	Deaths.
Wrightington	1	1	3
Shevington	1	3	0
Haigh	0	0	0
Parbold	1	0	0
Dalton	0	0	0
Worthington	0	0	0
	3	4	3

It is pleasing to note from the above table that three of the townships were wholly unaffected. Wrightington was responsible for the whole of the deaths, and all were from the Respiratory System, thus equalling the rate of 0.47 for last year.

SCHOOL CLOSURE.—I only found it necessary to adopt this measure on two occasions, viz., Appley Bridge Infants from February 28th to March 14th, on account of the prevalence of Measles; and Red Rock School, Haigh, from December 4th to December 24th, owing to an outbreak of Chicken-Pox. Both the schools were thoroughly disinfected before being re-opened.

The Sanitary conditions and Water Supply of all the schools in the district are quite satisfactory. Whenever an outbreak of infectious disease occurs among scholars attending school, closure of the whole or part of the school is adopted, according to how the scholars are affected, immediately I consider it advisable to do so.

SMALLPOX.—It is very gratifying to again state that the whole of the district was quite free from any outbreak of this terrible disease.

VACCINATIONS.—Only 27 cases of successful primary vaccinations were performed during the year, and I regret to admit that the number of children vaccinated, compared with the number of births, is most regrettable indeed, and I can only again express the opinion that exemptions are still far too easily obtained, and that parents are only too pleased to avail themselves of the easy method of obtaining exemption, disregarding the fact that we have again had several outbreaks of Smallpox in various parts of the country. In my opinion, some form of compulsion is necessary if we are to successfully combat this terrible disease of Smallpox.

WATER SUPPLY.—The quality of the water is still very good, and is obtained from various sources, chiefly from springs, and moorlands. Two samples have been analysed, and both have proved to be satisfactory. The supply has been constant throughout the year.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—For all new property water closets and pails are provided, but the privy system for all existing property is still mainly used, and the emptying of the same continues to be carried out to my entire satisfaction.

SCAVENGING.—This still continues to be well carried out, partly by the Council, and partly by Contract. Full details of this work will be found in the Sanitary Officer's Report.

DRAINS, SEWERS, AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.—This is being carried out by means of water courses and cesspools, with the exception of the Bleachworks portion of Haigh, which still has an Outfall Works. Special attention has been given to the sewers at Crooke, and is fully dealt with by the Sanitary Inspector in his report.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.—Three slaughter houses have been registered in accordance with "The Rural District Councils (Slaughter Houses) Order, 1924." The Sanitary Inspector in his report states that it is impossible to inspect every animal slaughtered in the district, in accordance with the instructions given in the circular issued by the Ministry of Health, owing to the area being such a large one, as in many cases the notices of slaughtering are not given or are received too late to make the necessary inspection.

Lodging Houses.—We have no registered common lodging houses in the district.

Workshops and Workplaces.—These are in a satisfactory condition. Only one sanitary defect was found, and which has been remedied.

Dairies and Cowsheds.—Many of these are of a primitive type, and more light and ventilation is required. They are, however, kept clean and limewashed. It is to be hoped farmers will deal with their milk supply on the up-to-date principle as put forward by the Ministry of Health.

Housing.—By private enterprise 20 new houses have been erected during the year. The Council have still under consideration the question of applying to the Ministry of Health for a subsidy grant for new houses built in accordance with the Housing Acts.

WRIGHTINGTON.

Population—Census 1911	1,928
Population—Census 1921	1,998
Estimated Population, July 1st, 1924	2016
Estimated Population, July 1st, 1925	2019
Acreage of Township	3915 acres
Density of Population per acre	0·5
Number of Inhabited Houses (1921)	465
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (1921)	462
Rateable Value	£27,297 7 6
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	£114 14 9

Births—	Males	Females	
Legitimate	17	22	40
Illegitimate	0	1	

Deaths—Males	13	
Females	13	
		26

Annual Birth-rate	19·81
Annual Death-rate	12·87
Natural Increase of Births over Deaths	14
Deaths from Zymotic Diseases	3
Zymotic Death-rate (excluding Tuberculosis)	0
Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1·4
Deaths in Infants under one year—Legitimate 2, Illegitimate 0	2
Infantile Death-rate per 1,000 births	50
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
,, Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	0

Births.—There were 10 more births than last year; the males gave an increase of 4 and the females 6. There was 1 illegitimate birth, a female, against 1 male and 1 female for the previous year; the birth-rate being increased from 14.88 to 19.81.

Deaths.—These show an increase of 2 over the preceding year. The male sex gave a decrease of 5, while the females gave rise to 7. The rate was increased from 11.90 to 12.87. The number of deaths of males and females were equal, viz., 13.

There were 2 infantile deaths, compared with 3 for the previous year, 1 male and 1 female, the rate being 50 per 1,000 births, compared with 100 for last year.

The causes of death were:—

Influenza	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	3
Cancer	3
Rheumatic Fever	1
Heart Disease	4
Bronchitis	3
Pneumonia (all forms)	1
Appendicitis	1
Chronic Nephritis	2
Congenital Debility	2
Other Deaths from Violence	1
Other Defined Diseases	3
	26

Three of the deaths were uncertified.

One death occurred in a non-resident, and was transferred to Preston.

Infectious Diseases and Deaths.—15 cases were notified, being 1 less than the previous year. Pneumonia accounted for 9, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Erysipelas, Encephalitis Lethargica, Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System, and Other Tuberculous Diseases 1 each. Four deaths were recorded: Tuberculosis of Respiratory System 3, and Encephalitis Lethargica 1.

School Closure.—Owing to the prevalence of Measles at Appley Bridge, I found it necessary to close the Infant School from February 28th to March 14th. The school was thoroughly disinfected previous to re-opening.

SHEVINGTON.

Population, Census 1911	1,905
Population—Census 1921	1,954
Estimated Population, July 1st, 1924	1,971
Estimated Population, July 1st, 1925	1,973
Acreage of Township	1,727 acres
Density of Population per Acre	1·01
Number of Inhabited Houses (1921)	424
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (1921)	420
Rateable Value	£10,752 15 0
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	£44 16 2

Births—	Males	Females	
Legitimate	13	22	37
Illegitimate	0	2	

Deaths—Males	11	
Females	13	
	—	24

Annual Birth-rate	18·75
Annual Death-rate	12·16
Natural Increase of Births over Deaths	13
Deaths from Zymotic Diseases	1
Zymotic Death-rate (excluding Tuberculosis)	0·5
Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	0
Deaths in Infants under one year—Legitimate 6 Illegitimate 0	6
Infantile Death-rate per 1,000 Births	162
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	1
,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
,, Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	0

Births.—These show a decrease of 2, the males being responsible for the decrease, while the females equalled the same number as last year, viz., 24. Females predominated over the males by 9. The rate was lowered from 19.78 to 18.75. Two illegitimate children were born, both being females, compared with 1 male and 2 females for last year.

Deaths.—There were 6 less deaths than in the previous year, 4 males and 2 females, the rate thus being reduced from 15.22 to 12.16. Infantile deaths were increased by 2 over last year, raising the rate from 102 to 162 per 1,000 births.

The causes of death were:—

Measles	1
Cancer	2
Heart Disease	2
Arterio-Sclerosis	4
Pneumonia (all forms)	7
Chronic Nephritis	2
Premature Birth	3
Deaths from Violence	1
Other Defined Diseases	2
	24

One of the deaths being uncertified.

Three deaths occurred in non-residents, and were transferred to Wigan and Lathom respectively.

Infectious Diseases and Deaths.—29 cases of infectious disease were notified, being 20 less than last year, Pneumonia being responsible for 23, Erysipelas 2, Pulmonary Tuberculosis 1, and Non-Pulmonary 3. One death occurred, viz., Measles, but it is not now notifiable in your township.

School Closure.—No closure was adopted during the year.

HAIGH.

Population—Census 1911	1,088
Population—Census 1921	952
Estimated Population, July 1st 1924	963
Estimated Population, July 1st, 1925	964
Acreage of Township	2,134 acres
Density of Population per acre	0·45
Number of Inhabited Houses (1921)	229
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (1921)	224
Rateable Value	£16,474 5 0
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	£60 0 0

Births—	Males	Females	
Legitimate	4	4	8
Illegitimate	0	0	

Deaths—Males	3	
Females	4	
		7

Annual Birth-rate	8·29
Annual Death-rate	7·26
Natural Increase of Births over Deaths	1
Deaths from Zymotic Diseases	0
Zymotic Death-rate (excluding Tuberculosis)	0
Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	0
Deaths in Infants under one year—Legitimate 0 Illegitimate 0	0
Infantile Death-rate per 1,000 Births	0
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
,, Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	0

Births.—Four less births were registered than in the previous year, the sexes being again equally divided; the rate fell from 12.46 to 8.29.

Deaths.—These gave the large decrease of 11 over 1924, the males being responsible for 5 and the females 6—a complete reversal of matters over last year, and thereby largely reducing the rate from 18.69 to 7.26. There was again no infantile deaths.

The causes of death were as follows:—

Influenza	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	2
Other Defined Diseases	2
	7

All the deaths were certified.

Infectious Diseases and Deaths.—5 cases were notified, 2 less than last year, viz., Pneumonia and Influenzal Pneumonia 3, Erysipelas 1, and Scarlet Fever 1. Two deaths occurred, both being Pneumonia.

School Closure.—This measure was only adopted on one occasion, Red Rock School being closed from December 4th to the 24th; the school being disinfected before being re-opened.

PARBOLD.

Population—Census 1911	711
Population—Census 1921	729
Estimated Population, July 1st, 1924	736
Estimated Population, July 1st, 1925	737
Acreage of Township	1,158 acres
Density of Population per acre	0.6
Number of Inhabited Houses (1921)	176
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (1921)	177
Rateable Value	£8,965 10 0
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	£34 13 4

Births—	Males	Females	
Legitimate	3	4	7
Illegitimate	0	0	

Deaths—Males	3	
Females	5	
		8

Annual Birth-rate	9·49
Annual Death-rate	10·85
Natural Decrease of Births over Deaths	1
Deaths from Zymotic Diseases	0
Zymotic Death-rate (excluding Tuberculosis)	0
Death-rate from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	0
Deaths of Infants under one year—Legitimate 0, Illegitimate 0	0
Infantile Death-rate per 1,000 Births	0
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
,, Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	0

Births.—These gave an increase of 2 over last year, the males decreased 1 and the females increased 3. As in the previous year, no illegitimate births were recorded, the rate being raised from 6.79 to 9.49.

Deaths.—These exceeded the births by 1, and gave an increase of 3 over last year; the males increased 1 and the females 2. As in the previous year, no infantile deaths were registered. The death-rate gave rise from 6.79 to 10.85.

The causes of death were as follows :—

Influenza	2
Cancer	1
Heart Disease	1
Arterio-Sclerosis	1
Pneumonia	1
Chronic Nephritis	1
Other Defined Diseases	1
	8

All the deaths were certified.

Two deaths occurred in non-residents, and were transferred to Wigan.

Infectious Diseases and Deaths.—5 cases were notified, compared with 1 for last year, and were as follows: Pneumonia and Influenzal Pneumonia 4, and Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System 1. One death occurred from Pneumonia.

School Closure.—No closure adopted.

DALTON.

Population—Census 1911	446
Population—Census 1921	430
Estimated Population, July 1st, 1924	433
Estimated Population, July 1st, 1925	433
Acreage of Township	2,103 acres
Density of Population per acre	0·2
Number of Inhabited Houses (1921)	92
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (1921)	93
Rateable Value	£3,238 5 0
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	£9 10 0

Births—	Males	Females	
Legitimate	3	5	8
Illegitimate	0	0	

Deaths—Males	3	
Females	3	
	—	6

Annual Birth-rate	18·47
Annual Death-rate	13·85
Natural Increase of Births over Deaths	2
Deaths from Zymotic Diseases	0
Zymotic Death-rate (excluding Tuberculosis)	0
Death-rate from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	0
Deaths in Infants under one year—Legitimate 2 Illegitimate 0	2
Infantile Death-rate per 1,000 Births	250
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
,, Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	0

Births.—Three less births were registered than in the previous year, the males being responsible for a decrease of 6, whilst the females increased 3, the rate thus being reduced from 25.40 to 18.47. As in the previous year, no illegitimate infants were born.

Deaths.—These equalled the number registered last year, viz., 6, the sexes being equally divided, the rate, 13.85, being the same as in 1924. Two infantile deaths were recorded, against none for the previous year, giving a rate of 250 per 1,000 births.

The causes of death were :—

Cerebral Hæmorrhage	1
Heart Disease	2
Premature Birth	1
Other Defined Causes	2
	6

Two deaths were uncertified.

Infectious Diseases and Deaths.—The township was quite free from infection, no cases being reported, compared with 1 for last year. No deaths occurred under this heading.

School Closure.—Adoption not necessary.

WORTHINGTON.

Population—Census 1911	249
Population—Census 1921	233
Estimated Population, July 1st, 1924	235
Estimated Population, July 1st, 1925	235
Acreage of Township	659 acres
Density of Population per acre	0.35
Number of Inhabited Houses (1921)	51
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (1921)	51
Rateable Value	£8,432 15 0
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	£33 4 0

Births—	Males	Females	
Legitimate	2	3	5
Illegitimate	0	0	

Deaths—Males	0	
Females	4	
		4

Annual Birth-rate	21·27
Annual Death-rate	17·02
Natural Increase of Births over Deaths	1
Deaths from Zymotic Diseases	0
Zymotic Death-rate (excluding Tuberculosis)	0
Death-rate from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	0
Deaths in Infants under one year—Legitimate 1 Illegitimate 0	1
Infantile Death-rate per 1,000 Births	200
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
,, Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	0

Births.—These show a decrease of 3 over the previous year, the males gave a decrease of 1 and the females 2. As last year, no illegitimates were born; the rate fell from 34.04 to 21.27.

Deaths.—These gave rise to 1 over the previous year, and, strangely enough, all were females as last year; the rates compared being 17.02 against 12.76 for 1924.

One infantile death was registered, compared with none for the preceding year, giving a rate of 200 per 1,000 births.

The causes of death were :—

Cerebral Hæmorrhage	1
Heart Disease	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	2
	4

One death being uncertified.

Infectious Diseases and Deaths.—Two cases were notified, both Pneumonia, compared with none for last year. Two deaths occurred from Pneumonia.

WIGAN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

18, Victoria Buildings, King Street,
February, 1926.

Dr. G. H. Ormsby, L.M.S.S.A., &c.,
Medical Officer of Health, Standish.

Dear Sir,

I have the honour to present the following Annual Report for the year 1925.

Notifiable Diseases.—56 cases of notifiable diseases were referred to me, viz., Scarlet Fever 2, Diphtheria 1, Tuberculosis 7, Erysipelas 4, Encephalitis Lethargica 1, Pneumonia 41.

No cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital during the year.

10 houses were fumigated.

123 informal and 9 statutory notices relating to defects and nuisances have been served.

Canal Boats Act.—11 canal boats were inspected, and in only one instance was there any infringement of the Act found.

Petroleum Acts.—23 licences have been issued for the storage or sale of Petrol and Calcium Carbide.

Dairies and Cowsheds.—131 inspections have been made during the year. The registers have been revised and brought up to date. 33 persons have applied to be registered as retailers of milk, which brings the total to 83. In addition, there are 59 registered cowkeepers who do not sell milk by retail. The total number of cowkeepers in the district (including retailers and producers of milk, stock-breeders, etc.) is 140. There are also 2 dairymen who do not keep any cattle.

48 notices were served requiring limewashing to be carried out in accordance with the regulations.

The 6 inch sewer in front of Woodcock Row, Crooke, has been repaired.

The ditches receiving sewage in the Shevington district have also been cleansed.

Scavenging.—The quantities of refuse, nightsoil, etc., removed in the whole district during the year are as follows:—

No. of Cart Loads	3,084
,, Closet Pails Emptied ...	5,715
,, Dustbins Emptied ...	5,619
,, Cesspools Emptied ...	76

The cost of this work for manual and team labour amounted to £957 12s. 4d.

The scavenging in the Haigh and Worthington townships has again been let by contract. In the other districts it is carried out by direct labour.

Slaughter Houses.—Three slaughter houses have been registered in accordance with "The Rural District Councils (Slaughter Houses) Order, 1924."

The Circular issued by the Ministry of Health, which permits slaughtering of animals on farms, has done much to upset the working of the above Order. It is absolutely impossible to inspect every animal slaughtered within such a large area. In many instances the notices of slaughtering are not given or are received too late.

Building Plans.—During the year 22 plans have been submitted and approved. These include the undermentioned:—

New Houses	19
Additions to Houses	1
Miscellaneous	6

Final Certificates have been granted for 20 new houses.

New Building Bye-Laws.—New Bye-Laws have been approved by the Ministry of Health, and these will shortly be in operation.

Housing Subsidy.—The Council have had under consideration the question of applying to the Ministry of Health for a subsidy grant in connection with new houses built in accordance with the Housing Acts, but a definite decision has not been arrived at up to the present time.

Water Supplies.—Two samples of water have been analysed, and both proved to be satisfactory.

A small hand pump has been fixed in the bore hole, which was sunk in the plantation opposite Beacon Inn, Dalton. This gives the residents in that vicinity an additional supply.

The pump at High Moor has again been repaired, and the 5in. main supplying rams at Mossy Lea has also had a defective pipe replaced.

Above Dangerous Corner, in Robin Hood Lane, 250 lineal yards 4in. cast iron mains have been laid, and a 2,000 gallon concrete tank constructed. This supplies all the houses above Skull House Lane, where a back pressure valve has been inserted. The high level tank is automatically filled in the night-time, when the pressure in the Upholland mains is sufficient to open the back pressure valve and reach that point.

At Parbold Reservoirs a serious leakage was discovered owing to the stone walling of the reservoirs being defective. The lower reservoir has been rendered in pudlo cement, and this has proved to be very effective. The cost was £25.

A slight alteration has been made to the pipes conveying water on to the filter bed at above works, and an additional supply can now be utilised when necessary.

In Shevington 400 lineal yards $\frac{3}{4}$in. lead main supplying Broadrydings and Holt Farms has been replaced with a 1in. galvanised wrought iron main. Two new water meters were also fixed.

At the Princes Park Estate, off Gathurst Lane, 90 lineal yards 3in. cast iron main has been laid.

FIRE BRIGADE MAP.—A map has been prepared showing all the water mains and fire hydrants within the district. This, together with a list of the hydrant positions, has been presented to the Wigan Fire Brigade, for their use in connection with fires occurring within the Rural District of Wigan.

Yours faithfully,

PAUL FAIRCLOUGH,

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for year 1925, for the Rural District of Wigan.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	9	Nil.	
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	44	Nil.	
Total	53	—	

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H. M. Inspector.	
Sanitary Accommodation—Insufficient	1	1		
Total	1	1		

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1925, for the Rural District of Wigan.

1.—NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (acres)	11,696
Population—Census, 1921	6,296
Population (Estimated 1925)	6,361

Physical features and general character of the area—

The greater part of Shevington is low lying. Wrightington, Dalton, and Haigh, are hilly, and Parbold lies in the Douglas Valley. The soil is mainly clay, though much stone is quarried in Wrightington.

Number of Inhabited Houses (1921)	1,437
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (1921)	1427
Rateable Value	£75,160 17 6
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£296 18 3

Social conditions, including the chief occupations of the inhabitants—

The chief occupation is Farming, though Coal Mining employs most of the male population, Brickmaking and Stone Quarrying employ a fair number. Linoleum and Glue Works, and Cotton Mills in adjoining townships afford employment for a large number of the female population.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Births in 1925	105	42	63
Deaths in 1925	75	33	42

Rates per 1,000 of Population.

	Birth-rate.	Death-rate.	Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	Rate of deaths under 1 yr. to 1,000 Births.
Mean of 10 years 1915—1924				
1924	16·5	13·5	0·47	66
1925	16·5	11·7	0·47	104
Increase or Decrease in 1925 on Mean of Five Years, 1920-1924	—1·9	—0·2	—0·16	× 19
Previous Year	Nil	—1·8	Nil	× 38

SUMMARY.—*Continued.*

The amount of Poor Law relief; the extent to which hospital and other forms of gratuitous medical relief are utilised: The amount paid in relief during the year was £1,215 14s. 0d. Six cases were admitted to the Poor Law Infirmary for maintenance. Medical Attendance and Medicine is also given to the poor persons by the Medical Officer appointed by the Guardians.

2.—General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Hospital Accommodation provided or available	For Smallpox—Yes, an isolated Cottage at Shevington. For other Infectious Diseases—None,

Joint or otherwise—Wigan take our patients, if necessary, on payment of the usual fees.

No. of Beds available for your district? For Smallpox .. 4 For other Infectious Diseases? None

Is there any Hospital Accommodation in the district for—*(a)* Tuberculosis—County Sanatorium take our cases.
(b) Maternity Cases—No. *(c)* Children—No. Except for one Ward at the Wigan Infirmary

Give postal address of Union Infirmary and any other Public Institution in the district—The Wigan Union Infirmary, at Billinge, near Wigan.

Have any of the following been provided in your district :—	Give name, situation, nature of accommodation, and by whom provided.
Institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, and homeless children	No
Maternity and Child Welfare Centres. Give day and time open.	No
Day Nursery	No
School Clinic	No
Tuberculosis Dispensary	There is one at Wigan to which patients are sent when necessary.
Venereal Diseases Treatment Centre	They have one at the Wigan Infirmary.
Ambulance facilities—	
(a) For Infectious Cases	For Infectious Cases that are sent to Wigan, the Corporation supply their motor ambulances.
(b) For Non-infectious and Accident Cases	The Wigan Coal and Iron Co. willingly supply their horse ambulance.

SUMMARY.—*Continued.*

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

Medical Officer of Health—GEORGE HENRY ORMSBY. Salary (including Bonus) as M.O.H., 31-12-1925, £107.

Is he a whole or part-time Officer? Part-time.

Any other public appointments held by him—District Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator.

Sanitary Inspector and Food Inspector—PAUL FAIRCLOUGH. Salary (including Bonus) as Inspector, 31-12-1925, £250.

Is he a whole or part-time Officer? Part-time. If not, what other appointments does he hold? Sanitary and Building Surveyor, and Water Engineer.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector—None. Any Specialized Inspector—None.

Any other Public Health Officers, such as Health Visitors and Special Nurses; if any, give names, Salaries, diplomas or certificates, or qualifications, and any other public offices held by them—No.

Professional Nursing in the Home. Nature of arrangements in the district for—	
(a) General Nursing	None.
(b) For Infectious Diseases, *e.g.*, Measles, etc.	None.
Is there a District Nursing Association in the District?	Yes, for Parbold and Appley Bridge. How many District Nurses employed—One.
If so, does any arrangement exist between the Council and the Association in respect of Child Welfare Work?	No.
If no such arrangement exists, does the Association voluntarily undertake Child Welfare Work?	No.
Does the Association undertake—	
(a) Midwifery cases?	Yes.
(b) Monthly Nursing?	No.

SUMMARY.—*Continued.*

Has any local scheme been prepared in regard to the Supply of Food and Milk for Expectant and Nursing Mothers, and of Milk for Infants?	No.	
Midwives—Is any Midwife employed by or assisted by the Local Authority?	No.	
Number of Midwives on the County Council Register, 31—12—1925	No. on Register — No. actually practising, —	
Any comments as to the sufficiency or otherwise of the midwifery service?	The services of a qualified Midwife are still needed in part of Wrightington- Otherwise midwifery service continues to be carried out with efficiency.	
Legislation in force— Specify any—		Operative from :—
Local Acts.	None	
Local Orders.	None	
General Adoptive Acts.	Infections, Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890.	1890.
	Public Health Acts, Amendment Act, 1890. (part only).	1890.
Bye-laws relating to public health.	New Streets and Buildings.	23rd April, 1888.
	Cleansing Footpaths, &c.	do. do.
	Nuisances.	do. do.
	Common Lodging Houses.	do. do.
Observations as to their administration.	Bye-laws for New Streets and Buildings have been submitted for the Ministry of Health Approval.	
Particulars as to co-operation with— The medical and ancillary services of the National Health Insurance.	None	
The Voluntary Hospitals.	None	
The Poor Law or other agencies.	None	

SUMMARY.—*Continued.*

3.—Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply—	
Source and quality.	Various. Chiefly springs and moorlands. Good.
Constant or intermittent.	Constant.
Approx. No. of dwelling-houses supplied	Direct–1,170. By stand pipe—7.
Possibilities of contamination.	None known.
Any liability to plumbo-solvent action.	Yes, 2 townships supplied with moorland water.
Any insufficiency, and where.	Part of Dalton Township and part of Wrightington
Nature of extensions (if any) during the year.	250 lin. yds. 4in. C.I. main, and 2,000 gallons Concrete Tank for high level supply at Dangerous Corner, Wrightington; 90 lin. yds. 3in. C.I. main at Prince's Park, Shevington.
Rivers and Streams—	
Action taken with regard to the Pollution of Streams. Sources and nature.	None. Ditches receiving drainage have been cleansed during the year, and cesspools regularly emptied.
Drainage and Sewerage—	
Sewage Disposal Works. Method of treatment	Red Rock for portion of Haigh Township. Septic tanks, and Double contact beds, storm water bed, and partly land irrigation.
What is the character of the Drainage System	Chiefly 4in. and 6in. drains into cesspools.
Any developments during year	No.
Areas, or Townships, without proper drainage system	Wrightington, Shevington, Parbold, Dalton, Worthington and part of Haigh.
Action taken—Drain Testing, Flushing, &c.	Systematically done.

Closet Accommodation at end of 1925:—

Privy Middens:—No. of Middens—548.
No. of Pail Closets—131.
No. of Fresh Water Closets—223.
No. of Waste Water Closets—1.
No. of Closets attached to these Middens—832.
No. of Dry Ashpits (excluding Middens)—171.
No. of Movable Ashbins for refuse—163.

SUMMARY.—*Continued.*

Conversions—	During Year 1925.		During Five Years, 1921-1925
No. of Privy Closets			
To Fresh W.C.'s	36	...	68
To Waste W.C.'s	0	...	1
To Pails, &c.	6	...	24
No. of Pail Closets			
To Fresh W.C.'s	0	...	Nil
To Waste W.C.'s	0	...	Nil

	During Year 1925.		During Five Years 1921—1925.
No. of Houses at which Movable Ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles	40	...	85

Is there any definite policy at the present time for abolishing privy middens and pail closets?—No.
Does Council contribute towards the cost of conversion?—No
What kind of closet accommodation is being provided for new property?—Water closets and pails.

Scavenging—	
Character and efficiency of the arrangements for Scavenging and Removal and Disposal of House Refuse for whole of district.	Pails and bins emptied weekly; privy middens and dry ashpits monthly or when necessary. Efficiently done.
How performed (state whether by Sanitary Authority, Contract, or Occupiers of Houses)?	Partly by Sanitary Authority and partly by Contract.
Are motor vehicles used?	No.
If Privy Middens exist, are they emptied by day or night	By day.
How is the refuse disposed of?	On Agricultural land and tips.
Has a destructor been provided?	No.

Sanitary Inspections during 1925—	
No. of premises visited	886.
Defects or nuisances.	No. discovered, 80. No. abated, 76.
No. of Notices served.	Informal, 123. Statutory, 9.
Legal proceedings.	No., None. Result.—

Smoke Nuisance—
Any special action taken with regard to smoke abatement?—No.
No. of Observations, 2. No. of Legal Proceedings taken and result, None.
What is the time limit allowed for the emission of black smoke per hour?—None fixed.

SUMMARY.—*Continued.*

Offensive Trades.	No.—1. Character.—Glue-maker. Action taken or needed.—Two Informal Notices served.
Workshops and Workplaces.	What is their condition?—Generally good.
Common Lodging-houses.	Number.—None. Are they Registered.— What is their condition —
Houses let in Lodgings.	Action taken or needed.—None.
Schools.	Sanitary condition.—Good. Water Supply, &c.—Good.
Canal Boats.	Number Inspected.—11. Number of Infringements of Acts.—1.

4.—Housing.

HOUSING: GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS.

(I.) General housing conditions in the area:—

(1) General housing conditions.—Very satisfactory.

(2) (a) Extent of shortage or excess of houses.—Slight shortage.

(b) Measures taken or contemplated to meet any shortage.—None. Housing Subsidy under consideration.

(3) Information as to any important changes in population during the period under review or anticipated in the future.—None.

(II.) Overcrowding:—

(1) Extent.—Only a few isolated cases.

(2) Causes.—Large families living in small houses.

(3) Measures taken or contemplated for dealing with overcrowding.—These families have been instructed to remove to more convenient houses when possible.

(4) Principal cases of overcrowding during the year 1925, and action taken.—No serious cases, so no action taken.

(III.) Fitness of houses:—

(1) (a) General standard of housing in the area.—Very good.

(b) General character of the defects found to exist in unfit houses.—Defective roofs, plaster, spouts, and windows

(c) How far defects are due to the lack of proper management and supervision by owners, or to acts of waste or neglect by tenants.—Mostly through owners' neglect.

SUMMARY.—*Continued.*

(2) General action taken as regards unfit houses under—
   (a) The Public Health Acts.—Informal notices served and owners interviewed. Failing any result Statutory Notices served.

   (b) The Housing Acts.—Information obtained, but action preferred to be taken under Public Health Acts.

(3) Difficulties found in remedying unfitness, either under the Public Health Acts or under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.—No serious difficulties encountered.

Special measures taken or suggested:—
   (a) Any special action to secure improved management of property by owners.—None.

   (b) Better care of property by tenants.—None.

   (c) The gradual carrying out of repairs according to agreed arrangements.—In one case owner promised to do certain repairs each quarter after receiving rents.

   (d) Any special method of dealing with unfit back-to-back houses, or other types of insanitary property.—None.

(4) Conditions so far as they affect housing, as regards:—
   (a) Water Supply.—Very satisfactory. Houses mostly supplied from town mains.

   (b) Closet accommodation.—Satisfactory

   (c) Refuse disposal.—Satisfactory.

   (d) Measures taken during 1925 as regards (a), (b), and (c).—Mains extended for additional water supply. Privies converted to water closets. Contracts renewed for scavenging.

(IV.) Unhealthy areas:—
Information as to complaints received or representations made and action taken, in regard to unhealthy areas.—None.

(V.) Byelaws relating to houses, to houses let in lodgings, and to tents, vans, sheds, &c.:—
   (1) As to working of existing byelaws.—Only ordinary building bye-laws in force, and no difficulty experienced in working same.

   (2) As to need for new byelaws or revision of existing byelaws.—New Building Bye-laws awaiting Ministry of Health sanction.

(VI.) General and Miscellaneous:—
Generally, an account of any action bearing on the public health, not covered by the above particulars, which has been taken during the year by the Local Authority in connection with overcrowding, insanitary property, and housing, whether under the Housing Acts or the Public Health Acts, including any action taken by the Authority to provide information as to the proper use of household fittings (e.g., sinks, water-closets, &c.) and the disposal of household refuse so far as possible by burning.—None.

SUMMARY.—*Continued.*

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

No. of new houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b).—20.

(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts:—
- (i) By the Local Authority.—0.
- (ii) By other bodies or persons.—0.

No. of houses in course of erection under Council's building scheme.—0.

Financial assistance for purposes of increasing housing accommodation:—

Have any advances been made during 1925—

(a) By loans?—No. (b) By subsidy?—No.

Unfit Dwelling-houses—

Inspection—(1) Total No. of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).—129.

(2) No. of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925.—32.

(3) No. of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.—Nil.

(4) No. of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under (3)) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.—10.

Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices—

No. of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.—9.

SUMMARY.—*Continued.*

Action under Statutory Powers—

A.—Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925—

(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.—0.

(2) No. of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—

(a) By owners.—0. (b) By Local Authority in default of owners.—0.

(3) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close.—0.

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts—

(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.—20.

(2) No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—

(a) By owners.—9. (b) By Local Authority in default of owners.—1.

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11, 14, and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925—

(1) No. of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders.—0.

(2) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made.—0.

(3) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit.—0.

(4) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.—0.

(5) No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.—0.

D.—No. of houses demolished voluntarily by owners, or converted to workshops, &c.—0.

SUMMARY.—*Continued.*

5.—Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply.—Observations on—

(1) The wholesomeness of the milk produced within or brought into the district.—Very good.

(2) The general adequacy of the arrangements for the supply and distribution of milk of pure and wholesome character.—Very good.

(3) The administration of The Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, The Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, and The Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Orders.—All under supervision of Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector. Registers have been brought up-to-date and lime-washing and cleansing insisted upon.

The Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923—	
No. of Dealers' licences issued during 1925 in respect of:	"Certified" Milk.—None. "Grade A (Tuberculin Tested)" Milk.—None. "Grade A" Milk.—None.
No. of licences issued in respect of "Pasteurised" Milk:	Pasteurising Plants.—None. Retail Distributors.—None.

Types of apparatus licensed for the pasteurisation of milk.—None.

Any refusal or revocation of registration of retailers or of licences for graded milk, with reasons for the refusal or revocation.—None.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk-shops—	
Are they periodically inspected?	Yes. What is their condition —Fair.
Give date of the Regulations made under the Order of the L.G.B.	1st March, 1907. Are they enforced?—Yes.
Amount of air space in cubic feet required for each cow.	(a) Where cows are habitually grazed.—None specified. (b) Where cows are not habitually grazed.—800.
Cowkeepers.	Total No. of Cowkeepers.—140. No. on Register.—140. No. of inspections during year.—131.
Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk (other than Cowkeepers).	Total No. of Dairymen or Milk Purveyors.—2. No. on Register.—2.
Any arrangements for veterinary inspection of dairy cows Give particulars.	No.

SUMMARY.—*Continued.*

Action taken as to—	
(i) Tuberculous Milk.	None.
(ii) Tuberculous Cattle.	None.

No. of samples of milk obtained during 1925 for bacteriological examination.—None.

(b) Meat.—Observations on—

(1) Meat inspection (including arrangements for inspection at the time of slaughter and for marking under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924; disease in meat and arrangements for disposal of condemned meat.—Carried out by the Sanitary Inspector; the usual notices are given, and all meat is inspected when possible. The most difficult part of this work is the inspection of meat slaughtered at isolated farms.

(2) Administration of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, as regards stalls, shops, stores, and vehicles.—Regulations insisted upon as far as possible.

(3) Has a public slaughterhouse been provided?—No.

Private slaughterhouses:—No. registered, in December, 1925, 3; total in 1920, 3; in January, 1925, 3; in December, 1925, 3

(c) Other Foods:—

Action taken in respect of places where food is prepared—	
Bakehouses.	Number.—4. Condition.—Good.
Other Premises.	Systematically inspected.
Amount of food condemned or surrendered during 1925 as unfit for human consumption—	State approximately the weight of carcases and of parts—
Tuberculous carcases and parts.	30 lbs.
Diseased, unsound, or unwholesome meat (other than above).	12 lbs.
Other foodstuffs.	Nil.
No. of Legal Proceedings and result.	None.
Food poisoning? Action taken (if any)	None.
Action taken by Local Authority (if any) in respect of—	
(i) Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.	None.
(ii) Condensed Milk Regs., 1923.	None.
(iii.) Dried Milk Regs., 1923.	None.
(iv.) Milk and Cream Regs., 1912—17.	None.

SUMMARY.—*Continued.*

6.—Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES GENERALLY.

NOTE.—The Ministry of Health state the prevalence of notifiable infectious diseases during the period since 1920 should be reviewed, and noteworthy facts as to the source or spread of infection should be recorded.—If pneumonia had not been made notifiable there would have been little Infectious Disease during the past five years. There were 59 cases of Pneumonia notified in 1924, which were Influenzal in origin, and 41 in 1925, also of an Influenzal character. Scarlet Fever accounted for 27 cases in 1922, and 17 in 1923. Enteric Fever, which used to be fairly prevalent, was responsible for only 3 cases during the past five years.

Diphtheria anti-toxin.—Notes on the supply and prompt use.—A supply of serum is promptly given when required.
Is a supply kept within the district?—Yes.
If so, where?—Medical Officer of Health's residence.

Encephalitis Lethargica.—Any special Occurrence.—There was only one case notified, in a boy of ten years, which proved fatal.

Scarlet Fever.—Discovery of "return" cases.—None discovered.

Pneumonia, Malaria, Dysentery, and Trench Fever.—Experience in regard to these diseases.—No cases of Malaria, Dysentery, or Trench Fever have occurred in the district.

Pathological and Bacteriological Examinations—Arrangements.—These are sent to Dr. W. E. Cooke, The Laboratory, Wigan Infirmary.

No. of specimens examined in 1925:—

Blood.—Nil. Sputum.—7. Throat Swabs.—2.

Swabs for Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—None. Others.—Urine, 1.

Action taken in regard to (a) Contracts, (b) Return cases, (c) Carrier cases.—None, no return cases having been discovered.

Has any use been made of the tests known as the Schick and Dick tests in diphtheria and scarlet fever respectively, or of the recently developed artificial methods of immunization against these diseases?—No.

Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.—No. of vaccinations performed by the Medical Officer of Health: (a) primary 27, (b) re-vaccinations 0.

SUMMARY.—*Continued.*

If any of the following diseases are compulsorily notifiable in your district, state for what period (see Table on page 13):—

Measles.—No. Whooping Cough.—No.

Diarrhœa (under 2 years).—No. Chicken-pox.—No.

Any Others.—None. Observations.—None.

No. of times -School Closure adopted during 1925 for—

Scarlet Fever.—None. Whooping Cough.—None.
Diphtheria.—None. Chicken-pox.—1.
Measles.—1. Influenza.—None.
Any other diseases (specify same).—None.

No. of Reports made during 1925 under Section 14 (4) Sanitary Officers Order, 1922.—None.

Influenza.—Observations on any special inquiries undertaken in connection with epidemics.—None.

Has any special attention been given to (a) cancer, (b) locally contracted anthrax, and (c) rabies?—(a) No. (b) and (c) No cases have occurred.

Disinfection:—

No. of Houses disinfected during 1925.—10. Method (state disinfectant used).—Formaldehyde gas.

Are Houses disinfected after (a) Phthisis.—Yes. (b) Measles.—Only on request.

†Apparatus used for clothing, bedding, &c. (steam or otherwise).—None used.

No. of Articles disinfected.—No record kept.

Where is Apparatus situated?—None kept.

† If Apparatus at Hospital is available, is it used for the disinfection of Clothing, Bedding, &c., of Patients not removed to Hospital?

If not, please state how disinfection of Clothing, &c., in these cases is carried out.—Sprayed with Formaldehyde and afterwards left in room and exposed to Formaldehyde gas.

Any arrangement for bathing verminous &c., persons.—None.

In how many instances has disinfection been carried out?—None.

WIGAN RURAL DISTRICT.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1925.

Number of Cases of Infectious Disease notified, number of deaths from these diseases, number of cases removed to hospital, and deaths in hospital during the year 1925.

"Notifiable" Diseases.	Total Cases at all Ages.	Total Cases Notified.												Hospital.		
		Years.														
		Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over	Total Cases removed to Hosp.	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to district.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever.........	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acute Primary Pneumonia Acute Influenzal Pneum.	41	3	10	3	3	2	5	2	0	5	4	3	1	0	1	13
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Erysipelas	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Other Forms of Tuberculosis ...	4	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles excluding German Measles...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Totals.........	56	3	10	4	3	2	8	3	1	12	4	5	1	0	1	18

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1925.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1—5 ...	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
5—10 ...	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
10—15 ...	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
15—20 ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20—25 ...	1	2	0	1	0	2	0	0
25—35 ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35—45 ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45—55 ...	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
55—65 ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals ...	1	2	2	2	1	2	0	0

What is the ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths?—Nil.

In your opinion, is the notification of tuberculosis in your district efficient —Yes.

Has any action been taken in cases of wilful neglect or refusal to notify?—No action necessary.

Is there any evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district?—No.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.—Any action taken under these Regulations (Articles 3, 5, 6, and 7) relating to tuberculous employees in milk trade?—No.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.—Any action taken under this Section?—No; if so, No. of applications for compulsory removal to hospital?—None; No. of cases in which Orders were granted?—None; observations?—None.

SUMMARY.—*Continued.*

7.—Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Ministry of Health state the Medical Officer's Report should include information on—

(1) The general arrangements made for attending to the health of expectant and nursing mothers and of children under five years of age, including the work of health visitors, midwives, and nurses.—A County Nurse visits expectant mothers and gives advice on general lines, also looks to the infants and children up to five years of age.

(2) Consultation and Treatment Centres.—None.

(3) Maternity homes and hospitals and other institutions for the reception of expectant and nursing mothers and young children as in-patients.—None.

(4) The incidence of maternal mortality and investigations into maternal deaths, still-births, and infant deaths.—There have been no maternal deaths for the past five years. Still-births and infant deaths accounted for the following rates per 1,000 births:—1921, 55; 1922, 135; 1923, 138; 1924, 66; and 1925, 104.

(5) The development of ante-natal work at Centres and in connection with the midwifery service where this has proved practicable.—Nothing has been done.

(6) Methods of dealing with unmarried mothers and illegitimate children and with children permanently or temporarily deprived of a home with their own parents.—No steps have been taken.

(7) The arrangements for the supply of food and milk.—No arrangements made.

(8) The arrangements for orthopædic treatment in areas in which such treatment is provided for children under 5 years of age.—The County M.O. attends to this matter.

(9) The work of voluntary societies in connection with maternity and child welfare and the place occupied by each in the Local Authority's scheme.—None.

(10) The co-ordination of all the work under this sub-section with the School Medical Service.—None.

(11) Observations on the incidence of puerperal fever, ophthalmia neonatorum, measles, whooping cough, epidemic diarrhœa, poliomyelitis, and other infectious diseases of parturient women, infants, and young children, and the methods adopted to diminish the mortality and permanent injury to health caused by these diseases, and the results achieved by these methods.—Only one death occurred, the case being one of measles at age of 7 years.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.—None.

Notable Sanitary Improvements during 1925.—New sewer lengths have been laid in the Crooke district of Shevington, and all ditches receiving sewage have had especial attention.

Chief Sanitary Requirements of District.—Better water supply in outlying townships.

Signed,
GEO. H. ORMSBY,
Medical Officer of Health.

May 6th, 1926.